

Eight years ago, LANE EVANS contracted Parkinson's disease. As he has served with us and we have sat by him and worked with him, he never complained once. We watched him as it became more difficult for him to smile and to lift his arms and to come here to the floor, and he has done that through his 24th year.

I can remember when he started the basketball games over at Georgetown to raise money for philanthropic causes here in the Capitol for the needy. He was always helping others, and he did not pay that much attention to himself. In fighting Parkinson's disease, which he is still fighting, he became a model to all of us on what the words "Semper Fidelis" mean.

So, LANE EVANS, I want to thank you on behalf of the people of Ohio and on behalf of your colleagues here in the House. You truly have been a worthy servant and it has been an honor to serve by your side. We wish you God-speed, and we thank you so very much for making us better by knowing you.

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the distinguished career of my good friend and colleague, Congressman LANE EVANS. LANE is retiring at the end of this Congress, and the House of Representatives will miss his leadership and untiring support of our nation's veterans.

LANE has devoted most of his entire professional life to service to the United States of America. He grew up in the heart of the district he represents, entering the Marines out of high school and serving in Vietnam. When he returned, he went to college and earned his law degree at Georgetown, and was elected to Congress in 1982.

Since then, he has made a tremendous impact on issues of national importance, such as agent orange compensation for affected veterans, investigating Gulf War illness, and the effort to ban land mines. While never seeking the spotlight, our veterans, military retirees and active duty service personnel know they have not had a greater advocate in Congress than LANE EVANS. LANE was awarded the Vietnam Veterans of America's first annual President's Award for Outstanding Achievement in 1990 and he received the AMVET's Silver Helmet Award in 1994, known as the "Oscar" of veterans honors.

At the same time, LANE has always defended the rights of working men and women, protecting the ability to collectively bargain while opposing unfair trade deals that have sent good paying jobs overseas. He has been a leader on environmental issues and a friend of the family farmer. Above all, LANE has been a steady presence for the issues he believes in and the constituents he represents.

Over the last several years, LANE also gained prominence for his ongoing battle with Parkinson's disease. The dignity with which he has faced this disease has inspired many, and helped educate the public about the disease. Not many people know how painful the disease can be, and you would never know it from LANE, as he has faced this ordeal with the same courage and determination he went to war and served in Congress.

Madam Speaker, what I appreciate most about LANE is his consistency. Whenever LANE was needed, he was there. His service to our

country has been profound and I wish him the best as he prepares for this next chapter in his life. I am honored to call him my friend.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in joining my colleagues tonight in recognizing the service of LANE EVANS. LANE is one of those people who came to Congress willing to work and not very interested in getting much attention or claiming much credit. All the work he did demonstrated his beliefs that we are here not to make a name for ourselves, but to make life better for the people who make this country strong. He was an advocate for the American worker and an advocate for the American Veteran. Since 1995 when LANE became Ranking Member of the House Committee Veterans Affairs, no one has tried harder to honor our obligations to those who have served our Country in uniform. Like the lighthouses on the Great Lakes, LANE has been a beacon of wisdom. When you follow LANE EVANS, you know you are going in the right direction.

In addition, he is just a first rate human being. I wish him well and offer my sincere gratitude for his service.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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TRIBUTE TO LANE EVANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague from Illinois, LANE EVANS, and recognize his long, distinguished career in public service.

From his time in the U.S. Marine Corps to nearly a quarter century in the House of Representatives, LANE has always put his country first, and now with his retirement at the end of the 109th Congress I join my colleagues in thanking LANE for his great service to his district, the State of Illinois and our Nation.

LANE Evans bravely served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. His experience in the military and his firsthand knowledge of veterans' issues led LANE to become a leading advocate for veterans during his time in Congress. On issues critical to veterans, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, the effects of Agent Orange, and home-

lessness to veterans, LANE Evans was consistently a leader in crafting real policy solutions. LANE's leadership on veterans' issues was formally recognized in 1995 when was named ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

In addition to his great work on veterans' issues, LANE has always dutifully served his constituents and the State of Illinois. He has been a strong advocate for working Americans and was one of the first to see the need for renewable energies, especially for ethanol.

My own experience in the hallowed halls of Congress began more than 20 years ago when I worked as an intern in LANE Evans' office. I will never forget how he was a great example to me. He showed how to be a truly compassionate and effective leader in the House.

LANE Evans' legacy will certainly reflect his commitment to our great Nation. His insight, passion and presence will be deeply missed by all of us.

I wish LANE all the best in his retirement, and we are all truly grateful for his dedicated service, and we will truly miss the man and his dedication and the friend that he was to so many in this chamber.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. SEKULA GIBBS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SEKULA GIBBS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HEFLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COSTELLO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)